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Application No.: 10/694,471
Docket No.: FA1064USNA

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AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently amended) Waterborne cathodic electrodeposition (CED) coating compositions comprising resin solids and optionally pigments, fillers and conventional coating additives, wherein said CED coating compositions comprise at least one bismuth compound in a quantity of 0.1 to 2.5 wt.%, calculated as bismuth and relative to resin solids content, together with at least one dicarboxylic acid in a quantity of 3 to 15 equivalent %, relative to 100 equivalent % of acid present in the CED coating composition, wherein the at least one dicarboxylic acid is selected from the group consisting of acyclic dicarboxylic acids with 3 to 7 carbon atoms and dicarboxylic acids with 8 to 10 carbon atoms comprising a cyclic structural unit in a quantity of 3 to 15 equivalent %, relative to the acid equivalents present in the CED coating composition.
2. (Original) The CED coating compositions of claim 1, wherein the proportion of the at least one bismuth compound is 0.5 to 2 wt.%, calculated as bismuth and relative to resin solids content.
3. (Original) The CED coating compositions of claim 1, wherein the at least one bismuth compound is selected from the group consisting of bismuth chelate complexes, bismuth oxide, bismuth hydroxide and bismuth salts.
4. (Original) The CED coating compositions of claim 1, wherein the at least one bismuth compound is selected from the group consisting of bismuth lactate, bismuth dimethylolpropionate, bismuth amidosulfonate and bismuth hydrocarbylsulfonates.
5. (Currently amended) The CED coating compositions of claim 1, wherein 100 equivalent % of acid present in the CED coating composition contains is equal to 20 to 70 milliequivalents of acid per 100 g of resin solids content.
6. (Original) The CED coating compositions of claim 1, wherein the resin solids content comprises a system which self-crosslinks or externally crosslinks by reaction of groups comprising active hydrogen with blocked isocyanate groups.

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7. (Original) A process comprising cathodic electrodepositing a coating of the CED coating composition according to claim 1 on an electrically conductive substrate.
8. (Original) A process according to claim 7, wherein the substrate comprises a substrate selected from the group consisting of automotive bodies and body parts.
9. (Withdrawn) A substrate coated using the cathodic electrodeposition process of claim 7.
10. (Withdrawn) An automotive body or part coated using the cathodic electrodeposition process of claim 8.

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Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the amount recited in the claim refers to the genus of dicarboxylic acid claimed, and not to one species within the genus. The Applicants appreciate where confusion could arise from an unintended reading of the claim, but nevertheless contend that the original claim was sufficiently clear when read in view of the supporting text on page 7 of the specification. With respect to the lack of antecedent basis of the phrase "the acid equivalents", Applicants respectfully contend that the presence of acid in the composition inherently provides basis for "the acid equivalents". However, the requested amendment makes this argument moot, since the amendments address the Examiner's concerns without giving up claimed subject matter. Applicant requests reconsideration of the rejection of the claims in view of the amendments, and that instead a Notice of Allowability be issued.

Respectfully Submitted



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